

INCLUDED IN THIS ISSUE

Crop Weather Milk Production Cattle on Feed

 Available on Internet at: www.nass.usda.gov/nm OR by e-mail (call 1-800-530-8810 for information)

CROP SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING MARCH 21, 2004

NEW MEXICO: There were 7.0 days suitable for fieldwork. Topsoil moisture was 27% very short, 49% short and 24% adequate. There was light wind damage at 14%. Farmers spent most of the week in field preparation for planting. Work had begun on irrigation systems as the irrigating season began with the first water release. Alfalfa conditions were 1% poor, 62% fair, 36% good and 1% excellent and there were reports of weeds with spraying expected to start soon. Cattle were being taken off alfalfa as the watering season began. Winter wheat conditions were listed as 13% very poor, 24% poor, 35% fair, 27% good and 1% excellent with 30% being grazed. Lettuce conditions were reported as mostly excellent. Chile was reported at 38% planted. Onions were 95% planted with conditions reported as mostly good to excellent. Ranchers were supplemental feeding and watering and were already seeing the previous weeks moisture depleting. Cattle conditions were 12% very poor, 25% poor, 35% fair, 25% good and 3% excellent. Sheep conditions were 15% very poor, 30% poor, 40% fair, 14% good and 1% excellent. Range and pasture conditions were 47% very poor, 39% poor, 13% fair and 1% good with most counties reporting good moisture but still needing additional precipitation.

CROP PROGRESS PERCENTAGES WITH COMPARISONS

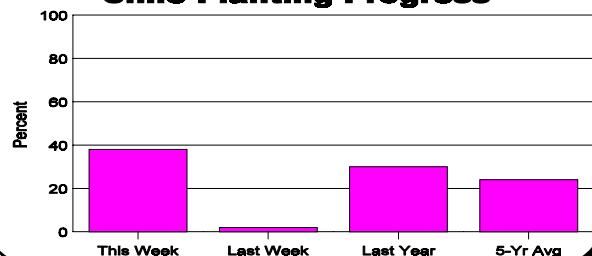
CROP PROGRESS		This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
CHILE	Planted	38	2	30	24
ONIONS	Planted	95	95	94	92
WHEAT (All)	Grazed	30	23	14	1/

1/ Not available

Onion Planting Progress



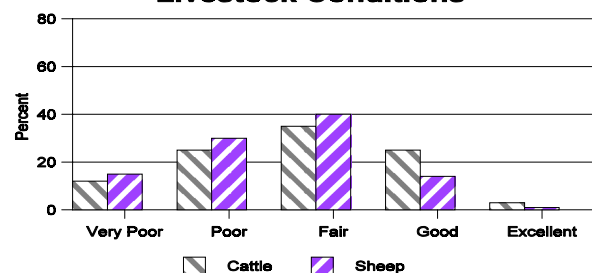
Chile Planting Progress



CROP AND LIVESTOCK CONDITION PERCENTAGES

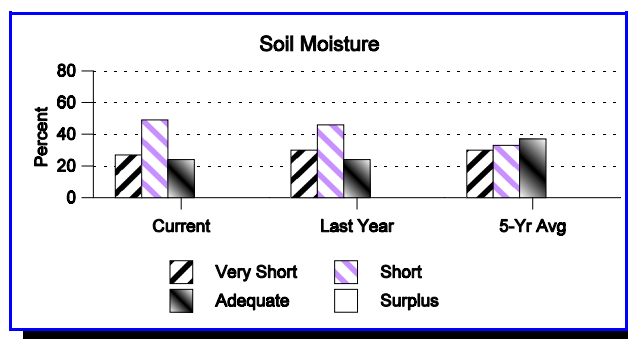
	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Alfalfa	—	1	62	36	1
Lettuce	—	—	10	20	70
Onions	—	1	10	75	14
Wheat (All)	13	24	35	27	1
Cattle	12	25	35	25	3
Sheep	15	30	40	14	1
Range/Pasture	47	39	13	1	—

Livestock Conditions



SOIL MOISTURE PERCENTAGES

	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Northwest	37	25	36	2
Northeast	12	74	14	--
Southwest	37	50	13	--
Southeast	31	34	35	--
State	27	49	24	--
State-Last Year	30	46	24	--
State-5-Yr Avg.	30	33	37	--



WEATHER SUMMARY

It was a dry week with unusually warm daytime temperatures statewide until Sunday when a backdoor cold front dropped temperatures in the eastern plains to below normal. Precipitation totals for the year have been updated to reflect final February numbers.

NEW MEXICO WEATHER CONDITIONS MARCH 15 - 22, 2004

Station	Temperature			Precipitation				
	Mean	Maximum	Minimum	03/15 03/22	03/01 03/22	Normal Mar	01/01 03/22	Normal Jan-Mar
Carlsbad	63.1	88	42	0.04	1.70	0.30	2.90	1.00
Tatum	59.3	83	38	0.00	1.16	0.52	3.64	1.41
Roswell	62.1	88	41	T	0.15	0.45	1.67	1.34
Clayton	52.5	81	28	0.00	0.63	0.55	1.28	1.10
Clovis	57.3	84	37	0.00	1.15	0.59	2.86	1.49
Tucumcari	56.4	87	33	0.00	0.74	0.40	1.50	1.13
Chama	42.9	74	11	0.00	0.11	1.99	5.08	5.34
Johnson Ranch	47.9	77	20	0.00	0.29	0.74	1.89	1.98
Capulin	46.3	76	24	T	0.47	0.89	1.24	1.85
Las Vegas	50.2	75	26	0.00	0.38	0.56	0.76	1.27
Los Alamos	50.8	72	33	0.00	0.84	1.22	3.47	2.88
Raton	48.4	79	23	T	0.18	0.83	0.99	1.84
Santa Fe	49.6	77	25	0.00	0.49	0.74	1.18	2.06
Red River	40.8	66	20	0.00	0.65	1.78	3.36	4.07
Farmington	53.9	82	29	0.00	0.05	0.81	1.29	1.97
Gallup	47.5	79	18	0.00	0.37	1.05	1.32	2.59
Grants	48.9	77	22	0.00	0.13	0.50	0.85	1.50
Silver City	55.8	78	33	0.00	1.14	0.96	4.24	3.37
Quemado	46.4	76	17	0.00	0.28	0.80	1.56	2.35
Albuquerque	57.5	82	36	0.00	0.63	0.54	1.90	1.44
Carrizozo	55.3	82	29	0.00	0.32	0.57	1.62	1.74
Gran Quivera	53.9	80	33	0.00	0.15	0.72	2.13	2.24
Moriarty	52.4	81	24	0.00	0.77	0.53	2.56	1.44
Ruidoso	49.1	73	26	0.00	0.09	1.33	1.95	3.61
Socorro	57.4	86	28	0.00	0.00	0.27	0.50	1.05
Alamogordo	64.5	85	46	0.00	1.07	0.46	1.80	1.67
Animas	63.4	84	40	0.00	1.31	0.47	3.42	1.66
Deming	61.1	86	39	0.00	0.96	0.34	2.16	1.36
T or C	62.9	85	41	0.00	0.49	0.34	0.76	1.18
Las Cruces	63.4	89	42	0.00	1.20	0.22	1.51	1.05

(T) Trace (-) No Report (*) Correction

All reports based on preliminary data. Precipitation data corrected monthly from official observation forms.

MILK PRODUCTION

NEW MEXICO: Milk production in New Mexico during February totaled 541 million pounds. Production per cow averaged 1,660 pounds compared to 1,760 pounds in January 2004 and 1,605 pounds in February 2003. The average number of milk cows on farms during February totaled 326,000 head, 1,000 head higher than in January 2004 and 12,000 higher than the average of 314,000 head during February 2003. New Mexico continues to be 7th in the nation in total milk production.

UNITED STATES: Milk production in the 20 major States during February totaled 11.8 billion pounds, up 1.7 percent from February 2003. However, adjusting production for the additional day due to the leap year causes February milk production to be down 1.8 percent on a per day basis. January revised production, at 12.5 billion pounds, was down 1.0 percent from January 2003. The January revision represented a decrease of 11 million pounds from last month's preliminary production estimate. Production per cow in the 20 major States averaged 1,531 pounds for February, 42 pounds above February 2003. The number of milk cows on farms in the 20 major States was 7.72 million head, 91,000 head less than February 2003, but 4,000 head more than January 2004.

Milk Cows and Production: January 2004 ^{1/} and February 2003-2004

State	Milk Cows ^{2/}			Milk per Cow ^{3/}			Milk Production ^{3/}		
	2/03	1/04	2/04	2/03	1/04	2/04	2/03	1/04	2/04
	-----1,000 Head-----			-----Pounds-----			-----Million Pounds-----		
AZ	155	155	155	1,850	2,010	1,880	287	312	291
CA	1,676	1,701	1,705	1,655	1,755	1,680	2,774	2,985	2,864
FL	146	140	139	1,290	1,435	1,375	188	201	191
ID	394	412	412	1,650	1,800	1,700	650	742	700
IL	114	108	108	1,485	1,610	1,520	169	174	164
IN	147	145	145	1,525	1,715	1,590	224	249	231
IA	204	196	194	1,480	1,600	1,510	302	314	293
KY	120	112	112	1,000	1,090	1,025	120	122	115
MI	302	300	299	1,590	1,780	1,670	480	534	499
MN	480	465	465	1,385	1,505	1,425	665	700	663
MO	133	125	124	1,150	1,265	1,185	153	158	147
NM	314	325	326	1,605	1,760	1,660	504	572	541
NY	677	658	660	1,400	1,490	1,400	948	980	924
OH	260	258	259	1,360	1,450	1,370	354	374	355
PA	588	563	564	1,430	1,500	1,425	841	845	804
TX	320	317	317	1,410	1,660	1,585	451	526	502
VT	152	146	146	1,370	1,515	1,425	208	221	208
VA	116	105	105	1,235	1,390	1,310	143	146	138
WA	248	240	240	1,750	1,900	1,790	434	456	430
WI	1,265	1,245	1,245	1,370	1,510	1,415	1,733	1,880	1,762
20 STS	7,811	7,716	7,720	1,489	1,619	1,531	11,628	12,491	11,822

1/ Revised. 2/ Includes dry cows, excludes heifers not yet fresh. 3/ Excludes milk sucked by calves.

CATTLE ON FEED

NEW MEXICO: Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in New Mexico for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 112,000 head, down from 117,000 the previous month but remaining the same as the number on feed one year ago. Placements during February totaled 16,000, down 1,000 from January. Marketings of fed cattle during February increased by 7,000 from 13,000 head in January to 20,000 head in February. Other disappearance for the month of February were 1,000 head.

UNITED STATES: Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 10.98 million head on March 1, 2004. Placements in feedlots during February totaled 1.61 million, 2 percent below 2003 and 11 percent below 2002. Marketings of fed cattle during February totaled 1.69 million, 2 percent below 2003 and 6 percent below 2002. Other disappearance totaled 69,000 during February, 3 percent below 2003 but 10 percent above 2002.

Cattle on Feed: Number on Feed, Placements, Marketings, and Other Disappearance, 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots ^{1/}												
	Number on Feed			Placed			Marketed			Other Disappearance ^{2/}		
	3/1/03	2/1/04	3/1/04	-----DURING-----								
				2/03	1/04	2/04	2/03	1/04	2/04	2/03	1/04	2/04
	-----1,000 Head-----											
AZ	279	296	295	22	32	27	31	26	25	3	3	3
CA	475	500	500	54	55	56	56	60	52	3	5	4
CO	990	1,040	1,020	160	165	155	190	160	165	10	5	10
ID	280	275	265	48	41	43	57	64	52	1	2	1
IA	380	*385	405	63	*64	61	71	47	40	2	2	1
KS	2,240	2,420	2,390	410	455	390	370	440	405	20	25	15
NE	2,190	2,280	2,270	330	380	350	350	360	345	10	20	15
NM	112	117	112	11	17	16	12	13	20	1	2	1
OK	320	350	335	46	50	47	55	53	59	1	2	3
SD	215	200	210	40	30	43	39	29	32	1	1	1
TX	2,560	2,770	2,690	370	390	350	395	430	420	15	20	10
WA	180	185	175	31	26	24	30	40	32	1	1	2
Oth Sts	325	310	310	65	46	48	77	60	45	3	6	3
US	10,546	*11,128	10,977	1,650	*1,751	1,610	1,733	1,782	1,692	71	94	69

* - Revised. ^{1/} Cattle and calves on feed are animals for slaughter market being fed a ration of grain or other concentrates and are expected to produce a carcass that will grade select or better. ^{2/} Includes death losses, movement from feedlots to pastures, and shipments to other feedlots for further feeding.